

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-15

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SPTA-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
SSC-01 DODE-00 SS-15 NSC-05 /049 W
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USSOUTHCOM

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E.O. 12065: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, PN
SUBJ: NEW HEAD OF PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY

1. PRESIDENT ROYO ANNOUNCED DECEMBER 21 THAT GABRIEL LEWIS GALINDO WILL BE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY. AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT LEWIS WOULD WORK WITH A COMMISSION COMPOSED OF THE FOLLOWING: RICARDO RODRIGUEZ, FORMER MINISTER OF GOVERNMENT AND LEGISLATIVE COMMISSIONER; EDWIN FABREGA, HEAD OF I.R.H.E. AND THE INCUMBENT; FERNANDO MANFREDO, FORMER MINISTER OF THE PRESIDENCY; ROBERTO HEURTEMATTE, FORMER UNDERSECRETARY GENERAL OF UNDP; LT.COL. ARMANDO CONTRERAS, NATIONAL GUARD G-3; FINANCE MINISTER ERNESTO PEREZ BALLADARES; PLANNING AND ECONOMIC POLICY MINISTER GUSTAVO GONZALEZ; AND FOREIGN MINISTER CARLOS OZORES. LEWIS PRAISED THE TEAM WHICH HAS BEEN WORKING WITH EDWIN FABREGA IN TREATY IMPLEMENTATION PLANNING. HE ASKED THAT THEY CONTINUE WORKING WITH HIM.

2. PRIOR TO THE ANNOUNCEMENT CARLOS LOPEZ-GUEVARA, AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO THE UNITED STATES, TOLD THE EMBASSY THAT RODRIGUEZ HAD BEEN DESIGNATED LEWIS' LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DEPUTY IN THE PANAMA CANAL AUTHORITY AND THAT FERNANDO MANFREDO HAD BEEN CHOSEN TO BE THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE PANAMA CANAL COMMISSION ONCE THE TREATY GOES INTO EFFECT NEXT OCTOBER.

3. COMMENT: WE ARE HIGHLY PLEASED WITH LEWIS' DESIGNATION. LIKEWISE, THE EMBASSY HAS A HIGH OPINION

OF MANFREDO AND BELIEVES HE WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT
COLLABORATOR IN CANAL ADMINISTRATION. THE APPOINTMENT
OF RODRIGUEZ AS LEWIS' DEPUTY, IF IT ACTUALLY
MATERIALIZES, WOULD BE A BIT DISQUIETING. HE HAS THE
REPUTATION OF BEING A LEFTIST AND EVEN ANTI-AMERICAN.
THE DEPARTMENT HAS BIO DATA ON HIM. UP UNTIL THE
ABOLISHMENT OF THE LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION, HE SERVED ON
IT. ROYO NAMED HIM TO BE A PRESIDENTIAL ADVISER IN LATE
OCTOBER. MOSS

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Message Attributes

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